

I. Is Jesus ‘God’ or ‘the Son of God’?

The correct answer is: Both! A human analogy might help. Every person is ‘human’ because that is his or her nature or essence. Every person shares that ‘human nature’ with 7 billion other people in the human race. But each person is an individual. Everyone has a ‘personal identity’ that they alone possess. It is shared by no-one else. That is what makes every person unique.

Jesus is ‘God’ because that describes His divine nature or essence (*dhat*). He shares that divine essence with the Father and the Holy Spirit in the Holy Trinity. Jesus is ‘the Son of God’ because that is his ‘personal identity’. He shares that unique character with no-one else.

II. Why do Christians say ‘Jesus is God’?

Jesus is God because He has characteristics that only God has.

(a) Jesus is the Creator:

The Qur'an says that God is the Creator (Q.6:102). The Bible says the same (Isa.40:28). Jesus creates in the Qur'an (Q.3:49; 5:110). He is also described as Creator in the Bible: “Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made... the world was made through him.” (Jn.1:3:10)

“For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.” (Col. 1:16) “Through whom he (God) made the universe.” (Heb 1:2), and “through whom all things came.” (1.Cor.8:6)

(b) Jesus has eternal existence

God is eternal. The Qur'an describes God as *as-Samad* the eternal One (Q.112: 2) and *al-Qayyum* ‘the ever-living One’ (Q.2:255). The Bible speaks of ‘the eternal God’ (Deuteronomy 33:27) who is “from everlasting”. (Ps.90:2)

Jesus also is eternal. He existed from eternity. He came ...from heaven - Jn 3:13; 6:33,38,41,42

...from where he was before - Jn 6:62

...from above - Jn 8:23

...from God - Jn 8.42;13:3;16:27

...from the Father - Jn 16.28

Jesus spoke of “The glory I had with you (the Father) before the world began.” (Jn 17.5) and said: “You (the Father) loved me (Jesus) before the world began” (Jn.17:24)

Jesus said that “He saw Satan fall like lightning” (Lk.10:18) – a reference to the pre-creation fall of Satan (Isa.14:12; Ezek.28:12-16) He claimed that ‘before Abraham was, I am.’” (Jn.8:58,59).

“Isaiah saw Jesus’ glory and spoke about him” (Jn.12:41 c.f. Isa.6:1). John the Baptist said of Jesus: ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ (Jn.1:30)

The Old Testament also refers to the pre-existence of the coming Messiah. “a ruler whose origins are from of old” (Mic.5:2). Jesus is the ‘wisdom of God’ (1.Cor.1:24) who is ‘appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began’ (Prov.8:23)

Paul refers to him as “the first-born over all creation ... before all things” (Col.1:15,17) “In the beginning, the Word was

with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning” (Jn.1:1,2)

(c) Jesus is holy:

In the Qur'an, God is called ‘the Holy One’ (Q.59:23; 62:1). The Bible says: “There is no-one holy like the Lord” (1.Sam 2:2) and “for you alone are holy” (Rev.15:4). Yet Jesus is also described as being without sin. He is described as “the holy one.” (Lk.1:35). He asks: “Who can convict me of sin?” (Jn.8:46) “There is nothing false about him” (Jn.7:18). He was without sin - Heb.4.15; 1.Jn.3.7; 2.Cor.5:21; Lk.23:41,47; Pilate found no fault in him:Jn.18:38; 19:4,6.

(d) Jesus claimed powers only God can claim

(i) to forgive sins: Luke 5:22-24;7:48; Mk.2:5

(ii) to judge all the earth : Mt.25:31,32; Jn.5:29

(iii) “Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will never pass away” - Mt.24.35

(iv) While the prophets said: “Thus says the Lord ...” e.g. Ex.4:22 (420 x in OT),

Jesus said: “Truly, *I* say to you” (x 518 in NT)

(v) “I give eternal life” (Jn.10:28)

(vi) “**Love the Lord your God** with all your heart, soul, mind, strength” (Lk.10:27), but also “**anyone who loves** his father or mother/son or daughter/ his own life **more than me** is not worthy of me/cannot be my disciple (Lk.14:26)

(e) Jesus accepted human worship

* “Then those who were in the boat worshipped him [Jesus], saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God’.” (Mt.14:33)

* The women “came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him.” (Mt.28:9)

* “When [the disciples] saw [Jesus], they worshipped him.” (Mt.28:17)

* “Then [the disciples] worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy (Lk.24:52)

* “The man said (to Jesus), ‘Lord, I believe,’ and he worshipped him.” (Jn.9:38)

(f) Jesus has the same titles as God

	God	Jesus
Light	Ps.27:1	Jn.8:12
Creator	Isa.40:28	Col.1:16
First & Last	Isa.48:12	Rev.22:13
Saviour	Isa.43:3	Jn.4:42
Judge	Dt.32:35	Jn.5:29
Witness	Gen.31:50	Rev.1:5
King	Ps.95:3	Mt.21:5
Compassionate	Ps.103:8	Jam.5:11
Faithful	Dt.7:9	Rev.1:5
Protector	Ps.116:6	2.Thess.3:3
Guardian	1.Sam.2:9	2.Tim.1:12
Guide	Ps.48:14	Lk.1:79
Bridegroom	Isa.65:5	Mt.25:1
Shepherd	Ps.23:1	Jn.10:11
Every knee shall bow to...	Isa.45:23	Rom.14:11; Phil.2:10

(h) Jesus was accused of calling himself God

“For this reason (the Jews) tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.” (Jn.5:18)

“Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, ‘I have

shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?’ ‘We are not stoning you for any good work,’ they replied, ‘but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.’” (Jn.10:31-33) *Jesus did not deny or repudiate their claims.*

(i) Jesus accepted being called ‘God’

“Thomas said to him: ‘My Lord and My God.’” (Jn.20:28) *Jesus did not rebuke Thomas for this.*

(j) Rest of NT teaches divinity

He is the “image of the invisible God” (Col.1:15)

“Christ … is the image of God.” (2.Cor.4:4)

“Christ who is God over all” (Rom.9:5)

“Your throne, O God …” (Heb.1:8,9)

“Jesus Christ is the true God ..” (1.Jn.5:20)

“Our God and Saviour Jesus Christ” 2.Pet.1:1

“Our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.”

Tit.2:13

“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of His being” Heb.1:3

Jesus is “coming with the clouds … Rev.1:5-8

(k) Jesus is seated on the Throne in heaven:

He is seated at the right hand of the Father (Eph.1:20; Heb.1:3; Rev.3:21)

Jesus is called the Lamb of God (John.1:29). The Throne in heaven is referred to as ‘the throne of God and of the Lamb’ (Revelation 22:1,3)

The Lamb is standing/seated at the centre of the Throne (Rev.5:6; 7:17; 7:9)

In heaven, “the Lord God almighty and the Lamb are its temple” (Rev.21:22) and “the glory of God gives it light and the Lamb is its lamp” (Rev.21:23)



Is Jesus God?

What the Qur'an and the Bible say

According the Qur'an, Jesus had more in common with God than he did with Muhammad

The Qur'an on	... God	& Jesus	Muhammad
creates	35:3 ✓	3:49 ✓	could ✗
heals	26:80 ✓	5:110 ✓	do ✗
raises dead	22:6 ✓	3:49 ✓	no ✗
fed hungry	6:14 ✓	5:112 ✓	miracles ✗
changed law	2:106 ✓	3:50 ✓	NO 10:15 ✗
knows hidden things	5:109 ✓	3:49 ✓	NO 6:50 ✗
knows last hour	7:187 ✓	43:61 ✓	NO 72:25 ✗
Holy / sinless	59:23 ✓	19:19 ✓	NO 4:106 ✗
is in heaven	2:255 ✓	3:55 ✓	NO 46:9 ✗

What does the Bible say?